



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The September seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.1 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. The rate is unchanged from August 2000, and was down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the September 1999 rate of 3.8 percent. The number of employed persons and unemployed persons in the Boise City MSA dropped by 100 individuals each, lowering the *Civilian Labor Force* to 242,700 individuals in September. Over the year, the number of unemployed persons dropped by 1,300 individuals or 14.8 percent while the number of employed individuals grew by 11,700 to 235,200. The *Civilian Labor Force* increased 4.5 percent or 10,400 individuals.

The Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 900 from August 2000, and increased 10,000 jobs from one year ago. *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a significant loss of 700 jobs over the month. Job growth was nonexistent in *Goods-Producing Industries* in September with only *Fabricated Metal Manufacturing*, *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing*, and all *Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* holding employment steady from the August figures. Job losses were experienced in *Construction & Mining*, *Industrial & Computer Machinery & Computer Equipment*, *Electronic & Other Electronic Equipment & Component Manufacturing*.

Service-Producing Industries experienced an increase of 1,600 jobs over the month. Job increases in *Retail Trade*, *Health Services*, *State Government Education*, and *Local Government Education* outpaced the job losses in *Gas & Sanitary Services*, *Du-*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada and Canyon counties)

	Sept 2000	August 2000	Sept 1999	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	242,700	242,900	232,300	-0.1	4.5
Unemployment	7,500	7,600	8,800	-1.3	14.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.1	3.8		
Total Employment	235,200	235,300	223,500	0.0	5.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	240,600	243,200	230,200	-1.1	4.5
Unemployment	6,600	7,100	7,700	-7.0	-14.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.9	3.3		
Total Employment	234,000	236,100	222,500	-0.9	5.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	223,600	222,700	213,600	0.4	4.7
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Mining & Construction					
Manufacturing					
Durable Goods	28,400	28,800	28,000	-1.4	1.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,500	3,500	3,900	0.0	-10.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,000	1,000	1,300	0.0	-23.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Fabricated Metal Products	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,200	8,300	8,100	-1.2	1.2
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,600	11,800	10,900	-1.7	6.4
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,900	0.0	-10.5
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	1,900	-4.8	5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,700	8,700	8,700	0.0	0.0
Food Products	5,800	5,800	5,900	0.0	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Trans, Comm, & Public Utilities					
Transportation	6,800	6,700	6,400	1.5	6.3
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	4,800	4,900	4,700	-2.0	2.1
Trade					
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,400	12,800	0.0	4.7
Durable Goods	7,700	7,800	7,400	-1.3	4.1
Nondurable Goods	5,700	5,600	5,400	1.8	5.6
Retail Trade	42,500	42,000	38,800	1.2	9.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,300	5,000	4,100	6.0	29.3
Foods Stores	8,200	8,100	7,500	1.2	9.3
Eating & Drinking Places	15,200	14,900	13,800	2.0	10.1
Other Retail Trade	13,800	14,000	13,400	-1.4	3.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services					
Business Services	14,600	14,600	13,900	0.0	5.0
Health Services	16,500	16,300	15,600	1.2	5.8
Hospitals	7,800	7,600	7,100	2.6	9.9
Eng., Acct., Res., Mgmt., & Related	4,400	4,400	4,000	0.0	10.0
Other Services	22,900	23,200	21,800	-1.3	5.0
Government					
Federal Government	4,700	4,700	4,900	0.0	-4.1
State Government	11,800	11,100	11,300	6.3	4.4
Education	4,000	3,300	3,600	21.2	11.1
Administration	7,800	7,800	7,700	0.0	1.3
Local Government	15,600	14,900	15,100	4.7	3.3
Education	9,800	9,000	9,600	8.9	2.1
Administration	5,800	5,900	5,500	-1.7	5.5

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Bureau

able Goods Trade, Other Retail Trade, Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate, Other Services, and Local Government Administration. The largest increases were noted in Local and State Government Education primarily because teachers, aides, and other school employees went back to work in September after the summer vacation. A total of 1,500 jobs were added in those industries over the past month alone.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Treasure Valley Population Booms

The Boise City MSA was ranked as fourth fastest growing of 276 metropolitan areas in the nation, according to 1999 population estimates recently released by the Census Bureau. The area has grown 37.9 percent in the past decade, with only Las Vegas, NV and metropolitan areas surrounding Laredo and McAllen, TX growing faster than the Boise City MSA. Meridian is by far the fastest growing city in the state with a growth rate of 76.6 percent since 1990. Other Treasure Valley cities showing steady growth since 1990 include Nampa at 31.2 percent, Caldwell at 11.8 percent, and Boise at 8.3 percent. Population information for other Treasure Valley cities and other areas within Idaho is located in the F.Y.I. section at the end of this newsletter.

BOISE MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Boise City Mayor Brent Coles gave his eighth annual State of the City Address on October 28. Mayor Coles stated, "Boise is well on its way to becoming the 'new American city' that cares about families and neighborhoods." The Mayor announced three new initiatives to emphasize the fight on drug abuse. They include the creation of a non-profit organization to help businesses implement drug-free workplace policies, a revolving loan fund to help homeowners and landlords clear properties of methamphetamines, and a team to help Police Chief Don Pierce investigate and close down meth labs. Coles discussed the recent annexation of land in southwest Boise, and the controversial efforts to outlaw nude dancing. He also highlighted the transportation needs of the city, including the need to restore rail service to connect metro economies in the Treasure Valley as well as link Boise to other Northwest cities such as Portland.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Chevron Corp. has announced plans to acquire Texaco, Inc. for \$34 billion. The newly formed company will be called ChevronTexaco Corp., and will make the business the fourth-largest oil company in the

world. The combined company will cut about 7 percent, or 4,000 workers, from its workforce and save an estimated \$1.2 billion annually. Representatives say that the workforce cutbacks should not affect the local area because most stations are privately owned. Both companies still need approval from their shareholders and federal regulators before the deal can move forward.

- Wells Fargo and First Security Bank have announced an expansion of First Security's call and loan documentation center in Boise. The expansion could add 122 new jobs initially and likely more jobs in the future. The call center will become part of the Wells Fargo Phone Bank, and will handle phone banking tasks such as consumer deposits, debit cards, and unsecured lines and loans as well as sell products and services.
- Alaska Airlines, Inc. recently announced plans to build a new reservations service center in Boise in 2001. The new one-story, 14,400 square-foot call center will be constructed on West Overland Road near the Maple Grove intersection. The center will answer calls regarding travel reservations and give departure and arrival schedules and other flight information. About 200 people will be employed at the Alaska Air Boise call center.
- Micron Technology, Inc. announced plans to buy out Kobe Steel's interest in KMT Semiconductor Ltd. in October. Kobe Steel is Micron's Japanese partner. Micron already owns 25 percent of the company and has agreed to pay \$125 million for the other 75 percent. Micron company officials state that the purchase will help increase its output of Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAMs), and its presence in Japan will strengthen Micron as a global player in the industry.
- Construction has begun on the new Wal-Mart Supercenter on Fairview Avenue next to the Texas Roadhouse restaurant. The 206,347 square-foot store will employ about 500 people when it opens in March. The Garden City Council also approved a plan for a Wal-Mart Supercenter at the corner of Glenwood and State Streets in Boise. Construction should begin at the end of the year, with an opening date of fall 2001. Wal-Mart has no future plans for construction of additional supercenters in the Treasure Valley once these stores open in 2001.
- Garden City Planning and Zoning Commission ap-

proved plans for a shopping center to be built next to the planned Wal-Mart Supercenter on State Street and Glenwood. The Cottonwood Plaza, a 104,000 square-foot shopping center, would showcase a natural-rock façade and fountains. No tenants are lined up for the Plaza at this time.

- Ground was broken on the new Meridian Police Department facility to be built on Watertower Lane in October. The 35,000 square-foot police station will quadruple the amount of space that is currently available for its officers and staff. The proposed two-story structure will include a large room that could be used for public meetings, and short-term holding cells. The Police Department hopes to be in the new building by October 2001.
- Several new businesses have recently joined anchor store Shopko in the new Crossroads Plaza in Meridian at Eagle Road and Fairview Avenue. Office Depot held a grand opening for its newest store, while Shepler's Western Wear, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Old Navy, GNC and Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill are also open there. Bath & Body Works and Famous Footwear will open this month.
- Karcher Mall's \$3.2 million renovation project is expected to be complete by November 20, 2000. The interior renovation work is complete, and a new main entrance sign, parking lot lights, and other signs are being completed and erected now. No new anchor tenants have been announced, although negotiations are being made and an announcement is expected in a few weeks. There are several vacancies within the mall, but spokespersons for Karcher Mall expect that once larger tenants are announced, many smaller merchants will be drawn to the site and the spaces will be filled.
- Macs Hobby & Craft Superstore opened its newly built 44,000 square-foot facility in Nampa in early October. The new building is located at 2121 Caldwell Boulevard, next to JB's Restaurant. This is the second Macs for the Treasure Valley, and the new Nampa store has created about 100 new jobs for the area.
- Ashley Furniture held a grand opening in late September for its new Caldwell location. The building, formerly Blacker's Complete Home Furnishings, is located on the Boulevard across from WalMart. Ashley Furniture is the fifth largest furniture company in the world and has a large selection of af-

fordable furniture. The site also has design consultants and a play area for children.

- Persons and Alsip funeral chapels have merged into Alsip and Persons Funeral Chapel in Nampa. The newly merged business will operate at 404 10th Street South, Alsip's current location. The current business is, and the former two funeral chapels were, affiliated with Carriage Services which takes care of the administrative tasks and gives the funeral chapel the opportunity for additional training and networking opportunities.
- YMCA officials have approved the Western Canyon Youth Club in Caldwell to become a YMCA affiliate. The long-term vision is to have a full-facility family YMCA in Caldwell that serves the entire spectrum of that community. Construction of the new facility may take 12 months, and could be operational in as soon as two years, although no formal timeline has been announced.
- Albertson College of Idaho's Business Leaders 500 Fall Business Seminar was held on the Caldwell campus on October 11. The seminar focused on e-commerce, successful recruiting, international trade, and raising venture capital for a business. Speakers from various companies spoke on their experiences with these topics to a group of 100 business professionals and students.

Adams County

- In early October, the Boise Cascade Community Park was officially opened. Park signs were designed and placed at the park. A new entranceway and dedication sign were created and the original leveling and seeding has been completed. City volunteers are to be thanked for all of their hard work thus far on the project. Also, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program has donated \$20,000 to the Adams County Recreation District to use towards the construction of a pond. The pond would provide irrigation water for the park and double as a fishery that will be stocked with rainbow trout by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The pond is expected to be complete by next summer.

Elmore County

- The Steele-Reese Education Center, a multi-media facility that will conduct environmental and astronomical education programs, was dedicated at the Bruneau Sand Dunes State park on October 13. The

new education center is located adjacent to the observatory and will offer interpretive programs for the park and telescope. The park will now provide extensive programs on the natural history and wildlife of the park, as well as astronomical studies. Future plans for the park include expanding observatory capabilities and eventually adding a solar system walkway and professional research staff. Also planned is an activity center that would give students a "hands on" approach to learn more about the wildlife that live in the area and the unique environmental conditions that created the park.

Gem County

- Central, "Your Rental Purchase Store" held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early October. Central offers furniture for rent or purchase and is located in the old Dales furniture building on the corner of Main Street and Washington Avenue in Emmett.
- In August, Agustin and Olga Contreras opened La Perla Mexican Store on the corner of Main Street and Hayes Avenue in Emmett. The store offers a wide variety of items including Mexican music, movies in Spanish, (rented and/or sold), groceries, fashions for adults and children, and other items unique to Mexican culture. The store is also an outlet for Mexico Express Wire Service, where money, pictures, letters, and other items may be wired through the shop to Mexico.
- Michele et Amis and café Amore recently opened at the corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street in Emmett. Michele et Amis features antiques, collectibles, primitives, dolls, and furniture, while Café Amore, the espresso café located inside the shop, features espresso, candy-covered coffee beans, proulette, biscotti, cinnamon rolls, bagels, and other treats.

Owyhee County

- Main Street Supply opened in Marsing on October 2. The store is located next to Old and New to You on 221 Main Street. The store specializes in Purina feeds for horses, dogs, cats, and sheep; as well as tarps, pitchforks, and other livestock supplies. Rich Dixon and Steve Coiteux, owners, hope to carry horse supplies in the future.

Valley County

- The McCall Job Service has moved from its location in Village Square to a new facility on Highway 55 on the southern edge of town. After 21 years at the

Village Square Office, the Job Service has a new, larger facility that will house both Job Service and Health & Welfare. The agencies share an entrance foyer, public restrooms, a conference room, staff restrooms, a mechanic room and a break room. The new address is 299 South 3rd Street and is located next to the Super 8 Lodge. The phone number remains the same: (208) 634-7102. An Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Idaho Power recently announced that its McCall office has become an operations center, handling construction work and emergency response only. The news release stated that the office will no longer be able to process electricity bill payments. Customers who wish to pay in person may visit the following pay stations: Paul's Market (McCall), Dorrie's Department Store (Cascade), and Farmer's Supply (Council).
- A new building is planned for next year in New Meadows that will house the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District. The two agencies have joined to build an emergency services building to house ambulances and fire trucks. The facility will be located along U.S. 95 at the west end of downtown adjacent to the New Meadows Senior Citizens Center. Final architectural drawings are expected this fall and construction is expected to begin in the spring. Completion of the facility is projected to be Fall 2001.

Washington County

- Fruits & Vegetables With A Peel opened in June in Weiser. The produce merchant is located along Weiser's new U.S. 95 alternate route in a polygon building that was built last spring. Also recently opening in Weiser was Perceptions Custom Embroidery.

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